

# **FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

## MINUTES of the October 24, 2017 Meeting

Meeting location: Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St., Frederick

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mari Lee. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. The following members were present: Annette Breiling, David Kaye, Lee Whisner, Adam Book, Francisco Alves, Irene Packer Halsey, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Mari Lee, Lisa Clark, and Roger Sobkowiak.

Liaisons Present were Jet Reid, Donna Kuzemchak, Chief Hargis and Lt Tokarz.

Other persons present were Alex Mercado, B. James Everett, and David Bedel.

- III. The September 2017 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote of the members in attendance with 2 amendments. [1] Make a note in the 1<sup>st</sup> item to reflect the meeting was called to order by David Kaye who chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Mari Lee and Vice Chair Lisa Clark. 2) In bullet #VIII, replace the word "was" with "were" in the third sentence.] Motion moved by Lisa Clark and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marguerite Vacca-Kaye.
- IV. The guest speaker was Alex Mercado. He is both a former police officer in Puerto Rico and a veteran. He spoke about the history of Puerto Rico and the challenges they are facing after the Hurricane. The best assistance they can receive at this time is money. Donations can be made to the United for Puerto Rico fund or Somos One Voice.
- V. Lt. Tokarz reported that they have 3 candidates, including one veteran and one person from Puerto Rico, for the upcoming Frederick City Police Academy. The new academy will start at the beginning of summer. It is time to push individuals to apply. He discussed additional recruitment efforts.
- VI. Officer Reports
  - Mari Lee reported that the Executive Committee met on October 10. They discussed the agenda for this meeting.
  - Annette Breiling reported the balance in the HRC account is \$4600.56
  - Community Relations Committee - Marguerite Vacca-Kaye reported that the Committee met and is planning a forum in November. The subject will be racial

stereotypes. A couple of suggestions for speakers were Janet Harding or Beverly Hendrix.

- Government Relations Committee - Adam Book reported that they presented a proposal for the Legislative lunch to the Executive Board. The focus will be on Employment. It will be held on December 12 at Bernard Brown Center. Speakers that have been invited are: Michelle Day, Helen Prophetter and Elizabeth Cromwell. CE Gardner will be asked to welcome everyone and present a proclamation. Mari Lee will serve as the emcee.
- Upon a motion by Lisa Clark, a second by Marguerite Vacca-Kaye and unanimous vote of the members in attendance, the annual Legislative Luncheon will be renamed "Human Rights Day Luncheon" starting with this year's event.

VII. Liaison report

- Jet Reid reported on the dropout rates and suspension rates to date.

VIII. Old Business

- The Naturalization Ceremony held on October 18 was a success. Roger was thanked for the great pictures he took at the event.
- The AACF's Annual Community Health Fair is this Saturday, October 28. The HRC still needs volunteers.
- The CRC is to prepare a statement on the recent headdress issue at Linganore High. The statement will be reviewed at the next executive board meeting.

IX. New Business

- Mari Lee presented the new HRC power point. She will send it out to the group and if anyone has recommended changes let her know by the next executive meeting.
- Roger asked what the status was on the recommendation of gender orientation and status to the council. Mari Lee said it was in the hands of the council and up to them to present it for a vote or not. A request was made to remind them about the recommendation.
- It was reported that the KKK has been putting flyers on cars at the FSK mall.
- Irene Packer-Halsey asked if a discussion could be had regarding the use of the word minority.

X. Of the members in attendance, brief final comments were made by those who chose to do so.

XI. Upcoming events reported by Annette Breiling were:

- A Community Conversation on Affordable Housing and the Challenges Ahead Tuesday, Nov. 15 7pm, Rosenstock Hall, Hood College
- A Community Day of Prayer for the Hungry and Homeless Sunday, Nov. 12, Frederick County Community Action Agency

XII. The meeting was adjourned.

